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31 July 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 31 JULY 1997 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to convey the attached letter, dated 30 July 1997, which I have received from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations (see annex). Attached to the letter is the tenth biweekly report on the multinational protection force for Albania requested by the Security Council in its resolutions 1101 (1997) of 28 March and 1114 (1997) of 19 June 1997.

I should appreciate your bringing the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kofi A. ANNAN

97-20837 (E) 010897

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Annex

Letter dated 30 July 1997 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i.
of the Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to submit the tenth report on the multinational protection force for Albania (see appendix). The report is submitted pursuant to the requirement set out in paragraph 9 of Security Council resolution 1114 (1997) of 19 June 1997, in which the Council requested the Member States participating in the multinational protection force to provide reports, at least every two weeks, through the Secretary-General, to the Council. The ninth such report was conveyed to you on 16 July 1997 (see S/1997/551).

I should be grateful if you could have the text of the present letter and the tenth report circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Giulio TERZI
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Appendix

Tenth report to the Security Council on the operation of the multinational protection force in Albania

I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 28 March 1997, the Security Council adopted resolution 1101 (1997), in paragraph 2 of which it welcomed the offer made by certain Member States to establish a temporary and limited multinational protection force to facilitate the safe and prompt delivery of humanitarian assistance and to help create a secure environment for the missions of international organizations in Albania, including those providing humanitarian assistance.

2. On 19 June 1997, the Security Council adopted resolution 1114 (1997), in paragraph 2 of which it welcomed the readiness of the countries contributing to the multinational protection force to maintain their military contingents in Albania for a limited time. In paragraph 3 of the resolution the Council welcomed the intention of the countries contributing to the force to continue to facilitate the safe and prompt delivery of humanitarian assistance and to help create a secure environment for the missions of international organizations in Albania, including those providing humanitarian assistance. It also took note of all the elements contained in the sixth report on the operation of the multinational protection force in Albania (see S/1997/460), concerning, inter alia, the electoral monitoring mission of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). It decided that the operation would be limited to a period of 45 days from 28 June 1997.

3. In both resolutions, the Security Council requested the Member States participating in the multinational protection force to provide periodic reports to the Council through the Secretary-General, at least every two weeks. The first nine reports on the operation of the force were provided on 9 and 25 April, 9 and 23 May, 6, 13 and 26 June and 2 and 16 July 1997.

4. This is the tenth such report to the Security Council on the operation of the multinational protection force in Albania and the fourth report submitted to the Council pursuant to paragraph 9 of resolution 1114 (1997). The present report refers to the events up to 30 July and in particular to the activity of the force in the third phase of the operation, which entails the withdrawal from the area at the end of the mission, whose duration was limited by the Security Council in its resolution 1114 (1997) until 12 August 1997.

II. MULTINATIONAL PROTECTION FORCE

A. Political guidance

5. The Steering Committee, consisting of the political directors of the 11 troop-contributing countries and the Commander of the operation, continues to follow the overall situation on the ground and to ensure the full compliance of

the activities of the force with the Security Council mandate. It held meetings on 4, 9, 14, 23 and 30 April, 6, 13, 14 and 22 May, 4, 10, 20, 25 and 29 June and 2, 15, 23 and 30 July.

6. Representatives of the following international organizations attended the meetings of the Steering Committee as observers, as appropriate: United Nations, OSCE, European Union (EU), Western European Union (WEU) and International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

B. Cooperation with Albanian authorities and with international organizations

7. The Ambassador of Albania to Italy attended the Steering Committee meeting on 23 July and provided information concerning the political situation in Albania after the elections.

8. The force has helped to create a secure environment during the electoral process, in particular for the OSCE/ODIHR missions, within the framework of the Security Council mandate.

9. The force facilitated the safe and prompt delivery of humanitarian assistance, which resumed after the elections, and helped create a secure environment for the missions of international organizations in Albania, including those providing humanitarian assistance, in accordance with the mandate defined in resolution 1114 (1997).

10. On 30 July, the new Albanian Prime Minister, Mr. Fatos Nano, paid a visit to Italy together with Deputy Prime Minister Bashkim Fino, Minister of State Kastriot Islami, Foreign Minister Paskal Milo, Interior Minister Neritan Ceka, Defence Minister Sabit Brokaj, Finance Minister Arben Malaj and Minister of Justice Thimjo Kondi. They had meetings in Rome with Prime Minister Romano Prodi and their counterparts in the Government of Italy.

11. A second international meeting on Albania has been convened in Rome for 31 July 1997 under the chairmanship of the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Lamberto Dini. All the force-contributing countries and Finland, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, the Russian Federation, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America have been invited to attend the meeting. The following international organizations have also been invited: the United Nations and related agencies, EU, OSCE, Council of Europe, WEU, North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), European Investment Bank (EIB) and ICRC. Albania will be represented by the Prime Minister and the above-mentioned members of the Cabinet.

C. Force deployment

12. At the conclusion of the electoral process the force started reducing its deployment, although continuing, as appropriate, its reconnaissance, patrolling and escort missions.

13. The operational plan for the withdrawal of the force provides for the following:

Date	Action
19 July	Romanian contingent completed its withdrawal.
23 July	Spanish continent completed its withdrawal.
24 July	Belgian contingent completed its withdrawal.
25 July	Slovenian contingent completed its withdrawal.
26 July	Austrian contingent completed its withdrawal.
27 July	Danish contingent completed its withdrawal.
1 August	Greek contingent will complete its withdrawal.
	Turkish contingent will complete its withdrawal.
3 August	French contingent will complete its withdrawal.
4 August	Portuguese aircraft will stop providing flights.
11 August	Italian contingent will complete its withdrawal.
	Force headquarters in Tirana will close.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

14. The force has been an essential component of the response by the international community to the Albanian crisis. As the force carried out its mandate, a considerable amount of humanitarian assistance reached the Albanian population, elections took place and a newly elected Government was formed. However, the deep-rooted problems of the country will still need action by the international community. The experience acquired by the force will help in identifying possible measures to be taken.

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LETTER DATED 31 JULY 1997 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to convey the attached communication, dated 11 July 1997, which I have received from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

I would appreciate your bringing it to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kofi A. ANNAN

97-20826 (E) 310797

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Annex

Letter dated 11 July 1997 from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) addressed to the Secretary-General

In accordance with Security Council resolution 1088 (1996), I attach the sixth monthly report on Stabilization Force (SFOR) operations. I would appreciate your making this report available to the Security Council.

(Signed) Javier SOLANA

Appendix

Monthly report to the United Nations Security Council on SFOR operations

SFOR operations

1. Approximately 35,000 SFOR troops are currently deployed in Bosnia and Herzegovina, with contributions from all members of NATO and from 20 non-NATO countries.

2. Ireland joined SFOR on 27 May 1997, and is providing a Military Police contingent. An advance party arrived in Sarajevo in June, and the main body is expected to deploy at the beginning of July. Over the reporting period (23 May-22 June), there were no other significant changes in the overall size and composition of the force. SFOR has continued to conduct reconnaissance and surveillance by means of ground and air patrols, and to make random inspections of weapons cantonment sites. During the period, approximately 17,000 sorties were flown by combat aircraft, while the SFOR helicopter fleet flew over 2,500 hours. Since the end of April, the number of aircraft available has been reduced from 126 to 92. Those remaining provide sufficient capability to support SFOR's mission. SFOR's Operational Reserve troops continued their training, which began in April, as noted in last month's report, with the conduct of exercise Joint Resolve from 16 to 22 June.

3. Support continues to be provided to the United Nations Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium (UNTAES), with SFOR maintaining its regular, coordinated training missions over Eastern Slavonia in order to exercise plans to provide close air support if necessary.

Cooperation and compliance by the parties

4. Overall, the parties are assessed as being substantially compliant with the military provisions of the Peace Agreement. Nonetheless, illegal movements, unauthorized training and inventory shortages continue to be discovered, and illegal checkpoints have again been found and dismantled over the reporting period. All parties continue to be responsible for violations due to reprisals and maltreatment of other ethnic groups. Some returning ethnic groups have been attacked, houses have been destroyed and some have been forcibly evicted. Further details are provided in paragraphs 5 to 11 below.

5. On 3 June, an air defence radar at a Bosnian Serb army site was confiscated after being activated on 28 May, outside its approved operational period. The confiscation was completed without incident. An immediate ban was imposed on all Bosnian Serb army flights, until 18 June.

6. On 10 June, following an inspection of the General Staff Headquarters of the Bosnian Serb army, SFOR discovered and confiscated a piece of undeclared radio equipment without incident.

7. On 18 June, SFOR confiscated heavy vehicles (1 tank and 2 infantry fighting vehicles) and artillery (2 x 76mm mountain howitzers) which had been detected in a non-declared Bosnian Serb army site. The operation was conducted without incident.

8. Over the reporting period, SFOR troops conducted a total of 588 site inspections: 190 combat and infrastructure sites belonging to the Bosniacs; 153 combat and infrastructure sites belonging to the Bosnian Croats; and 225 combat and infrastructure sites belonging to the Bosnian Serbs. As a result of these inspections, together with inspections of civil police stations, monitoring of illegal checkpoints and routine patrolling, the following weapons (including those mentioned above) were confiscated: from the Bosniacs, 1 unauthorized military vehicle, 1 EW radio receiver and 1 sniper rifle; from the Bosnian Croats, 1 electronic warfare device and 12 small arms; from the Bosnian Serbs, 1 infantry fighting vehicle, 1 tank destroyer, 1 armoured fighting vehicle, 1 SA-6 radar, 3 x 76mm mountain guns, 2 mortars and 114 small arms; and from civilian elements, 1 armoured personnel carrier, 1 radio and 2 small arms. Most of the confiscated weapons have already been destroyed, and the rest will be destroyed shortly.

9. SFOR monitored a total of 1,268 training and movement activities: 514 by the Bosniacs, 313 by the Bosnian Croats, 434 by the Bosnian Serbs and 7 by the Federation.

10. Freedom of movement continues to be impaired. Implementation of the new SFOR/International Police Task Force (IPTF) checkpoint policy, outlined in last month's report, has led to a dramatic increase in the number of unauthorized checkpoints dismantled, and SFOR removed, or participated in the removal of, 53 unauthorized checkpoints over the reporting period - 2 Bosniac, 6 Croat, 18 Bosnian Serb, 2 Federation and 25 unidentified. The new checkpoint policy is receiving a mixed response from the parties, being implemented with the full cooperation of Federation officials but with less support from Republika Srpska officials.

11. Over the reporting period there have been a number of incidents involving the return of refugees and displaced persons. On 21 June, Bosniac refugees blocked the Zenica-Maglaj road to protest against expulsions from several villages in the area by unarmed Bosnian Croats, despite an agreement with local authorities to allow them to work on their homes and farms during the day. The demonstration dispersed peacefully after an agreement was reached between SFOR, the other international organizations in the theatre and the mayors of Maglaj and Zepce. Under the terms of this agreement, Bosniacs were allowed to return to their homes between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. daily in order to carry out repairs to make them suitable for future occupation. In Mostar, there have been reports of eviction threats against Bosnian Serbs and Bosniacs living in the Bosnian Croat controlled western part of the city. On 23 June, Bosnian Croat police attempted to prevent approximately 100 Bosniacs from participating in a Muslim holiday celebration in a village in the Bosnian Croat enclave of Kiseljak. The Bosniacs reacted by erecting road blocks, thereby completely stopping traffic. After the intervention of SFOR troops, using armoured vehicles and helicopters, the ceremony proceeded with the agreement of the police, and the road blocks were dismantled.

12. Continued close coordination between SFOR, IPTF and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has enabled the UNHCR bus lines to continue to operate over the reporting period. Fourteen lines are now open across the Inter-Entity Boundary Line. The European Union bus lines operating in ethnic majority areas have also benefited from this close coordination.

13. During the reporting period, the Entity Armed Forces, under SFOR supervision, removed 2,305 explosive devices from 231 mined areas. In the period since October 1996 when the linkages was first made between demining efforts and freedom of training and movement, 8,177 mines and unexploded ordnance have been removed from a total of 775 mined areas. It is expected that the demining activity will continue to increase throughout the summer. A training ban was imposed from 23 May until 21 June, and was subsequently extended until 7 July, on the third Bosnian Serb Army Corps due to a lack of demining effort.

14. On 6 June, at a meeting of the Joint Military Commission in Sarajevo, the army commanders of the parties reported on mine clearance, the reduction of cantonment sites and the recovery of vehicles belonging to the United Nations. Revised instructions to the parties were issued, reflecting amendments to procedures governing, inter alia, the definition of ordnance factories and the tasking of helicopters for medical evacuations or search and rescue missions.

Cooperation with international organizations

15. SFOR continues to provide assistance, within its capabilities, to the international organizations in theatre. SFOR liaises directly with officials of the Office of the High Representative in Sarajevo, Mostar and Brcko and continues to provide technical experts and assistance in telecommunications and engineering. Air transportation and information campaign assets also provided on a routine basis.

16. In cooperation with the Office of the High Representative, SFOR continues to work towards the opening of airfields within Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the re-constitution of the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) to reflect equal representation from the entities. However, the parties have not yet signed memoranda of understanding with SFOR to enable the regional airports of Banja Luka, Mostar and Tuzla to be opened. Added impetus to this initiative was provided at the Peace Implementation Council Ministerial Steering Board meeting in Sintra, Portugal, on 30 May, when Ministers insisted that the parties show progress on opening the regional airports, and reconstitute CAA by the end of July. If progress is not made by that time, international cooperation with the existing CAA will cease. On 19 June, the SFOR Commander met with Dr. Silajdzic, the Co-Chairman of the Council of Ministers, to impress upon him the importance of the matter. A meeting of the Council of Ministers was subsequently held, on 20 June, at which a large number of amendments were presented by the Minister for Civil Affairs and Communications, Mr. Albijanic. No date for a further meeting of the Council of Ministers has been set.

17. The Standing Committee on Military Matters (SCMM) met for the first time on 1 June 1997, in the presence of the United States Secretary of State. The

meeting had been called by the outgoing High Representative, Carl Bildt. The SFOR Commander and representatives from the Office of the High Representative and the OSCE attended as observers. It was agreed to set up a working group to consider a proposed set of rules of procedure. After being postponed from 16 June, the first official SCMM meeting was held on 19 June, to consider the draft rules of procedure. No agreement was reached on a large number of amendments presented by President Krajisnik, and a revised set of rules of procedure is currently being worked on by the Office of the High Representative in cooperation with SFOR.

18. With respect to the forthcoming municipal elections, SFOR continues to guarantee the secure environment necessary for the conduct of voter registration and for campaigning by the political parties. Logistic assistance is being provided, as required, to OSCE, and SFOR also continues to provide personnel to support the OSCE Joint Election Operation Centre.

19. SFOR is continuing to support IPTF through surveillance, communications, transportation and the ability to call for armed reinforcements. SFOR also provides general area support to IPTF.

20. SFOR provides direct liaison to UNHCR on a permanent basis, as a member of its International Housing Commission, and works with UNHCR on organized returns, especially in the Zone of Separation. SFOR has also provided assistance through humanitarian civic action projects aimed at assisting displaced persons and refugees. The SFOR Civil-Military Task Force has now assessed the conditions for return in 83 cities and made this information available to the Repatriation Information Centre which it helped UNHCR to establish in Sarajevo.

21. SFOR is continuing to provide information on cantonment holdings of heavy weapons to the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office for the Article IV Subregional Arms Control Agreement. Recently, SFOR's offer to move heavy weapons to reduction sites was accepted by the Bosnian Serb army. Multinational Division North helped the Bosnian Serb army to move 39 tanks, 5 armoured personnel carriers and an assortment of howitzers and mortars to reduction sites. On a national basis, some NATO members are providing technical expertise and equipment to the parties for the destruction of heavy weapons under the reduction provisions of article IV.

22. SFOR is also continuing to confirm with OSCE that the parties are notifying exercises, in accordance with the provision of the Article II Confidence-and-Security-Building-Measures (CSBM) Agreement. If this is not the case, SFOR will not grant permission to hold such exercises. With respect to the implementation of CSBM, a seminar on military doctrine took place on 11 and 12 June, in which participants from both entities agreed on a number of elements for their joint military doctrines. These include, inter alia, that armed forces should operate in accordance with the Peace Agreements; that there should be no use of force to solve outstanding issues; that there should be democratic control of the armed forces and the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms. In addition, Hungary and Romania carried out an Open Skies demonstration flight over Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Outlook

23. Although the overall situation in the theatre is expected to remain stable, resettlements in minority areas and in key towns such as Brcko over the coming weeks and months could lead to incidents.

24. A forthcoming milestone in implementing the Peace Agreement are the municipal elections in September. SFOR will provide the general security framework for the elections as well as other direct support to OSCE, including appropriate logistic and communications support and assistance. The force will be adjusted accordingly.